25X1A

For

C IA/0cce/BP

*From
Dale S.*

CONFIDENTIAL

TO   INR - Allan Evans

THROUGH: S/S

FROM   :   G - U. Alexis Johnson

SUBJECT: Biographic Files

References: CA-10880 dated April 16, 1965
            CA-11045 dated April 19, 1965
            CA-11102 dated April 20, 1965
            CA-11622 dated April 30, 1965

The Inter-Agency Youth Committee and the geographic bureaus have pressed for the identification of potential future leaders in the developing areas. The referenced airgrams asked posts to submit the names of up to fifty, and a number of posts have complied. This concern with spotting future leaders leads me to request information about the biographic files.

As an aid to the posts in these operations, we have considered research on the early years of present-day leaders, on the correlation between leadership in a national student union and subsequent prominence in national affairs, and on related matters. Five or ten years from now, it may be useful similarly to retrace the patterns of leadership development. This, too, brings to the fore questions about the content and potential uses of our biographic files.

Therefore, I would be grateful for information on the following points:

1. What are the criteria that determine who is to be included in the files? Is leadership potential -- including potential for democratic leadership -- among them?

2. How inclusive is the material that is screened for names and biodata?

    a. Is an individual carded automatically when his name has been submitted by the posts as an identified potential future leader -- in a message that responded to the referenced airgrams, for instance, or in any other message?

    b. Are the posts' nominations for grants (travel, study, or training) screened for estimates of potential leadership?

                                        c. Is traffic

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

    c. Is traffic screened for the names of students or others
who take a prominent part in demonstrations -- of
whatever political character -- and for the names
of young activists prominent in the affairs of national
student unions or other organizations or movements?

3. What categories of data can be retrieved on the basis of the
existing programming system? For example, is it possible to
pull out the names of all rising young labor leaders in a
given area? Will it be possible five years from now to
retrieve the names of any individuals who were once identified
by the posts as potential leaders?

G/Y:GSheehan:lh
3/7/66

CONFIDENTIAL